Numb. LII.

THE

Pennſylvania GAZETTE.

Containing the freſheſt Advices Foreign and Domeſtick.

From Thurſday, November 20. to Monday, November 24. 1729.

ACCOUNT of the late Enquiry into the State of the Goals in England, *extracted from ſundry* Engliſh *Prints.*

IN the preſent Dearth of News, we think we cannot entertain our Readers more acceptably, than with a particular Account of the late Parliamentary Enquiry into the State of the Goals in *England*, and the Proceedings thereupon, by which the preſent Honourable Houſe of Commons have ſo happily endear'd themſelves to the whole Nation, and diſtinguiſhed themſelves to Poſterity to their immortal Honour.

The Riſe and Occaſion of this Enquiry was as follows; JAMES OGLETHORPE, Eſq; a Member of the Houſe, being particularly acquainted with Mr. *Caſtel*, an ingenious Man, eminently skill'd in Architecture, out of generous Compaſſion and Humanity, viſited him in his Diſtreſs while a Priſoner in the *Fleet*; and being afterwards fully convinc'd that the Hardſhips and Barbarities he ſuffer'd from the Warden, were the immediate Cauſe of his Death, he, from that Moment reſolv'd to uſe his utmoſt Endeavours to redreſs what appear'd to him a *National Grievance*, the Abuſes and Enormities committed in the common Priſons. In order thereto, he communicated his Thoughts to ſeveral eminent Members, who readily concurr'd in this publick ſpirited Deſign.

The Firſt Mention we find of it, is in the Votes of the Houſe, *Feb.* 25. when upon a Motion made by *James Oglethorpe*, Eſq; a Committee was appointed *to Enquire into the State of the Goals*, &c. of which Committee that Gentleman was choſen Chairman.

This Committee immediately enter'd upon that neceſſary Service, and begun with the *Fleet Priſon* in *London*, where they examin'd ſeveral of the Priſoners, and among the reſt Sir *William Rich* Bart. who, upon a ſlight Diſpute with Mr. *Bambridge* the Warden, having been loaded with heavy Irons, the Committee, abhorring ſuch inhumane Treatment of a Perſon of his Rank and Quality, order'd his Irons to be immediately taken off. But ſcarce was the Committee withdrawn, when *Bambridge*, in contempt of of their Authority, ordered Sir *William* to be put again in Irons, in which Condition he was found again, the next Day, by the Committee. Juſtly provoked by this Piece of Inſolence, the ſame Day, Febr. 28. Mr. *Oglethorpe* acquainted the Houſe, 'That the Committee had 'entered upon their Enquiry into the State of the Fleet 'Priſon, and had directed him to report to the Houſe, 'how highly the Warden of the ſaid Priſon had mis-be-'haved himſelf upon that Occaſion; and read the Report 'in his Place, and afterwards delivered it in at the Table, 'where the ſame was read:' Hereupon it was Reſolved, *Nemine Contradicente.*

Firſt, That *Thomas Bambridge*, Eſq; Warden of His Majeſty's Priſon of the Fleet, having miſuſed, in a very cruel and barbarous Manner, Sir *William Rich* now a Priſoner in his Cuſtody, for having given Evidence before a Committee of this Houſe, was guilty of an High Indignity to this Houſe, a Contempt of the Authority, and Breach of the Privilege thereof.

Secondly, That the ſaid *Thomas Bambridge* be, for his ſaid Offence, taken into Cuſtody of the Serjeant at Arms attending this Houſe.

Thirdly, That the Committee appointed to enquire into the State of the Goals of this Kingdom have leave to ſit, notwithſtanding any Adjournment of the Houſe.

By the Report of this Committee deliver'd into the Houſe, *March* 20. a horrible Scene of Villainy, Extortion, and the higheſt Cruelty and Barbarity, was laid open and diſcovered to the whole Nation. All the Particulars of which would take up too much Room in theſe Papers; but we ſhall abbreviate as much as poſſible, and inſert ſome of the moſt material Paſſages at large.

It appeared to the Committee, that the *Fleet* was a Priſon for Debtors and for Contempts of Courts only, and properly under the ſame Regulations with the other Goals of the Kingdom.

Upon Inſpection and Examination on the Common Side of the Priſon, in the Three Wards, called the Upper Chapel, the Lower Chapel, and Julius Cæſar's, Ninety-three Perſons were confined, who are obliged to lye on the Floor, if they cannot furniſh themſelves with Bedding, or pay 1 *s. per* Week to ſuch Priſoner as is ſo provided. The Lions Den and Women's Ward, which contain about Eighteen Perſons, are very noiſome, and in very ill Repair. There are ſeveral Rooms in the Chapel Stairs, for each of which 5 *l.* a Year is now paid, but did formerly belong to the Common Side, and for which nothing was paid, until charged by Mr. *Huggins*, late Warden, at 3 *l.* a Year each. And on this Floor, there are ſeveral Perſons who are uncertain what Chamber-Rent they are obliged to pay, and are at the Mercy of the Warden. In ſome Rooms, Perſons who are ſick of different Diſtempers are obliged to lie together, or on the Floor; one in particular had the Small-Pox, and two Women were ordered to lie with her, and they pay 2 *s.* 10 *d. per* Week each for ſuch Lodging. In all the Rooms (except very few) the Furniture is provided by the Priſoners, and thoſe which are furniſhed by the Warden are extremely bad. For tho' by the Regulation made by the Judges, the Warden ought to furniſh all the Rooms, and in ſuch Caſe the Priſoner to pay 2 *s* 6 *d. per* Week, for each Room ſo furniſhed; there are now ſeveral Rooms, in each of which there are two, three and four Beds, and in each Bed two, and ſometime three Perſons, who pay 2 *s.* 10 *d.* each *per* Week, for ſuch Lodging. There are three Houſes adjoining and belonging to the Priſon, which are kept as Spunging-Honſes by Tenants to Mr. *Bambridge* as Warden, in one of which, kept by *Corbett*, Twenty-ſix Priſoners are confined. Many of theſe Priſoners pay 2 *s.* a Day for the Uſe of a Room in this Houſe, and for Firing 1 *s.* and the other Priſoners 1 *s.* a Night for a Bed; but, notwithſtanding ſuch Payments, they are obliged to lie two or more in the ſame Bed. The Sums paid by theſe Twenty-ſix Priſoners, (two at 2 *s. per* Day, and Twenty-four at 1 *s.* for the Uſe of the Lodgings only, being in the Whole 1 *l.* 8 *s.*) amount yearly to 511 *l.* beſides the Money paid for Firing at 1 *s.* a Day by ſuch as have any, and 1 *s.* a Day for their Board. Some of theſe Priſoners not being able to

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pay the 1 *s.* a Day for Eating, procured Neceſſaries to dreſs their own Meat, but *Corbett*, the Tipſtaff, would not ſuffer them ſo to do, and they are under the Neceſſity of being ſupplied by their Friends, or ſtarve.

Lieutenant *Jenkin Leyſon* (now a Priſoner with Corbett) paid the following Fees upon his being taken into Cuſtody, for one Action, *viz.*

	l.	*s.*	*d.*
To the Judge's Clerk - - -	1	2	8
To the Phillizer - - - -	0	4	0
To the Warden of the Fleet - -	2	6	8
To Corbett the Tipſtaff - -	0	10	6
To Ditto, for being taken into Cuſtody -	1	10	0
To the Turnkeys - - - -	0	2	6
Total - -	5	16	4

Several other Priſoners, paid the like Fees for every ſingle Caption. And every Priſoner removed by *Habeas Corpus* from one Place to another, pays to the Tipſtaff 4 *s.* 2 *d.* every one brought out of the Country by *Habeas Corpus*, and committed in Court for want of Bail, 13 *s.* 4 *d.* every Priſoner carried to Weſtminſter-Hall by *Habeas Corpus*, in Order to be charged in Execution, pays 10 *s.* And every Priſoner pays at his Entrance into the Houſe of the Tipſtaff 6 *s.* towards a Bowl of Punch.

By a Liſt of 382 Priſoners as have the Liberty of the Rules and Precincts of the Fleet Priſon; with an Account of what each Perſon hath paid to the Warden for ſuch Liberty, it appears that the annual Gifts every Chriſtmas, amount to near 2828 *l.* 17 *s.* 4 *d.* Tho' the Gratuity to the Warden for the Liberty of the Rules, is exacted in Proportion to the Greatneſs of the Debt; and if all paid, that Account would be three Times the before-mentioned Sum. Theſe Sums ſo paid appear to be very extraordinary Exactions from the Priſoners, and are the more unreaſonable, becauſe all Priſoners who have the Liberty of the Rules enter into Bonds in very great Penalties, with ſufficient Sureties for not eſcaping, the leaſt of which Penalties are always double the Sums they ſtand committed for.

Every Priſoner who has the Liberty to go abroad in Term-Time pays 5 *s.* 6 *d.* for each Day, and for the firſt and laſt Days of the Term 6 *s.* And in about two Years Time, one Gentleman paid 30 *l.* for obtaining Day-Rules.

An Act having paſſed in the Sixth Year of the late King, for the Relief of Inſolvent Debtors, Mr. *Fytche* did thereupon declare, in the Name of Mr. *Huggins*, that unleſs every Priſoner within the Rules would give him two Guineas they ſhould not be liſted, in order to be diſcharged in purſuance of that Act, for that *Huggins* would refuſe to ſwear them his Priſoners, as that Act required, and would not ſuffer his Deputy to do it; but a Liſt was delivered of about Twenty Priſoners then in the Rules, who were diſcharged; having given two Guineas each to *Huggins*, for inſerting them in the Liſt.

[*To be continued in our next.*]

London, July 29. Mr. Cowel's great Aloe, called the Sophy of Perſia's Glory, or Moſes's Candleſtick, at the Ivy-Houſe on the back Part of Hoxton, is beginning to bloſſom, having twelve Bloſſom Branches already apparent, and as many more expected; it is now aſpiring the third Story in height, and 'tis ſuppos'd will elevate its Summit four Stories high; alſo that it will produce purple Bloſſoms: This being the firſt of the Kind that ever did bloſſom in England, it may deſervedly be accounted the Wonder of this Part of the European World.

London, Aug. 14. We hear from Coventry, that when the Judges came there and opened their Commiſſion, there were only three Criminals to be tried, who all broke out of the Goal during the Time of the Aſſize Sermon, and eſcaped.

They write from Tunbridge-Wells, that ſeveral Ladies have of late appeared on the Walks with Shoulder-knots, a Faſhion led up by a certain Great Dutcheſs.

It is written from Gibraltar, That by Capt. Walters from Sallee they have Advice, that his Majeſty's Ambaſſador to the Emperor of Morocco, being arrived at Sallee, was well received there; and that he had obtained the Emperor Muly Abdallah's poſitive Orders to the Commanders of three Cruizers, which were ready to put to Sea, not to moleſt any Ship or Veſſel belonging to Great Britain, on Pain of Death.

We hear from Port St. Mary's that the Diverſion which the French Seamen gave his Catholick Majeſty, was, heaving a Sloop on one ſide, ſo that her Maſt, which was very long, lay horizontally over the Water; at the farther End was faſten'd a Prize, and having well-greas'd the Maſt all over, 30 of the lighteſt and nimbleſt Fellows among them undertook to run along it, and get the Prize; but they all tumbled in before they could get to the End, making the Spectators very merry, particularly His Majeſty, who laughed right heartily, and ordered them 5 Piſtoles each Man.

Her Majeſty has received from Hanover a curious Draught or Repreſentation of the Fire-works that were plaid off at Harburgh before his Majeſty, being the fineſt that have been known in Germany.

Warſaw, Aug. 5. A few Weeks ago arrived here from Conſtantinople, M. Baſchſtrom, an Evangelical Preacher, who is preparing to return back with his Wife and Children, and at the Requeſt of the Sultan, is to tranſlate the Holy Bible out of the German into the Turkiſh Language, and his Majeſty will bear the Expence of his Journey.

Madrid, Aug. 9. We have Advice from Peru in America, that Goods are very much wanted there, and there are 40 Millions of Pieces of Eight ready to be laid out for Merchandize ſo ſoon as the Galleons, or the Flota ſhall arrive there from Spain.

Hamburgh, Aug. 19. It is wrote from Copenhagen of the 16th, that 2 Ruſſian Frigats were arrived in their Road of 20 and 26 Guns, and 200 Men; their Cargo conſiſted of Bullets, Iron Guns, Hemp and Materials for Ship-Building: 'tis ſaid they are bound for Spain.

Philadelphia, November 24.

We hear from Egg-harbour, that ſeveral Veſſels have lately been drove aſhore there; particularly a Briganteen from Ireland, a Ship from Leverpool, and a Sloop from Boſton. They are about to burn One for her Iron, it being thought impracticable to get her off; but they hope the others may put to Sea again.

We hear likewiſe, that the Scooner John, Capt. Wright, lately mention'd in our Paper to be cleared out for Boſton, being laden with Wheat, overſet in the Bay not long after the Pilot had left her; probably thro' Neglect of having Shifting-boards in her Hold. It is not yet certainly known whether any of the People are ſav'd or not.

Advertiſements.

To be SOLD by *CHARLES READ*,

THree Hundred Acres of excellently good Land, well Timber'd and Watered, lying in *Bucks*-County, about Two Miles from the Court-Houſe, and in the Neighbourhood of ſeveral Mills.

Seventy-ſix Acres of Land, within ſix Miles of *Philadelphia*, bounding on *Cobb*'s Creek, with the Privilege of joining a Dam, and overflowing the Lands on the other Side of the Creek, which is a conſtant, and one of the beſt Streams in *Penſilvania* for a Mill.

A Parcel of good Sadlers-Ware very cheap.

RAN away from *David Davies* of *Goſhen*, in the County of *Cheſter*, on the 6th of this Inſtant, a Servant Man, named *George Curren*, aged about Twenty-one. He is an *Iriſhman*, of a middle Stature, pale Complexion, pretty much Pockfretten, ſhort black Hair, ſometimes wears a light-coloured ſtrait Wigg; at other times a knit Cap; he has a good Felt Hat, a dark brown Frize Coat, and an old Sheep-ruſſet Waſtcoat, old dark coloured Breeches, with a great deal of Pitch on them, and a good ſtrip'd Pair under them; alſo a ſtrip'd Shirt, dark brown Stockings, and old Shoes. Whoſoever will ſecure the ſaid Runaway, and give Information to his Maſter, ſo that he may have him again, ſhall have *Twenty Shillings* Reward, and all reaſonable Charges, paid by me *David Davies*.

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